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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraphs at page 6, line 2 through page 7, line 2, in the following manner:

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION BRIEF SUMMARY

~~Accordingly, it is a general object of the present invention to provide a novel and useful method of processing image data in which one or more of the above problems are eliminated. A more specific object of the present invention is to provide~~  
In an aspect of the present disclosure, a method of evaluating a distortion caused by truncation of bit planes without decoding encoded data.

~~To achieve one of the above problems,~~ a A method of processing image information, according to an aspect of the present invention disclosure, includes the step of encoding said image information by a bit plane, ~~[[;]]~~ the step of generating index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information, ~~[[;]]~~ and the step of compressing said image information by truncating the bit planes; wherein the bit planes to be truncated are determined based on said index parameter.

When truncating the bit planes of the encoded image information, one can evaluate the degradation of the image information caused by the truncation based on the index parameter generated in advance without decoding the image information.

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.